

MEDIA ADVISORY
USDA Satellite Features Feed
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Contact: USDA-TV (202) 720-6445 or (202) 720-3319

FEATURE – SMALL WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HARVEST

INTRO: A U-S-D-A meteorologist says farmers may finally get a stretch of dry weather to harvest their crops. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more. (1:17)

A WET FALL HAS CREATED THE WORST HARVEST CONDITIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN A GENERATION. BUT U-S-D-A METEOROLOGIST BRAD RIPPEY SAYS THERE COULD A SHORT STRETCH OF DRY WEATHER COMING UP.

Brad Rippey, USDA Agricultural Meteorologist: We are in probably in the best window of opportunity for harvest so far this fall and maybe the best window that we are going to see all the way through.

BUT FIELD CONDITIONS MIGHT STILL BE TOO WET TO ALLOW FARMERS TO HARVEST CROPS IN MANY PLACES.

Rippey: Going back into the mid nineteen seventies this is the slowest corn and cotton harvest on record.

So we've seen a huge deterioration of the quality of most of the crops left in the field.

AND IF FARMERS, ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTH, CANNOT GET INTO THEIR FIELDS DURING THIS DRY STRETCH, THEY WILL BE HAMPERED BY EVEN MORE WET WEATHER.

Rippey: There are a couple of pools of tropical moisture, one in the southern gulf of Mexico and another one in the western Caribbean...and that will be an end to that window and could possibly bring excessive rains back into the delta states.

It's sort of a continuation of the problem that we saw through the summer. A very pronounced dip in the jet stream that brought a cool, the year without a summer to much of the Midwest.

RIPPEY SAYS SOME AREAS FACE THE THREAT OF NO HARVEST AT ALL. IN WASHINGTON D-C FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I'M BOB ELLISON.